

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-15, 21-26, 30-43, 49-54 and 58-65 are requested to be cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice.

Claims 16, 27, 44-48 and 55-57 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 16-20, 27-29, 44-48 and 55-57 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action dated March 28, 2005, the Examiner withdrew claims 21, 22, 24-26, 52-54 and 58-65 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Those claims have been cancelled herein, without disclaimer or prejudice, for purposes of expediting the allowance of the application with the presently allowed claims. Applicant reserves the right to seek patent protection for the subject matter of those cancelled claims.

Claims 1-9, 11, 14, 15, 23, 30-37, 39, 42 and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oyamada (U.S. Patent No. 4,881,150). In addition, claims 1-9, 11-15, 23, 30-37 and 39-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shetler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,752,299). Claims 10 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oyamada.

Claims 1-15, 23 and 30-43 have been cancelled herein, without disclaimer or prejudice, for purposes of expediting the allowance of the application with the presently allowed claims. Applicant reserves the right to seek patent protection for the subject matter of those cancelled claims. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-15, 23 and 30-43, each of the above-listed rejections is moot.

Claims 16-20, 27-29, 44-48 and 55-57 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that those claims would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 16, 27, 44 and 55 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to place those claims in condition for allowance. Claims 17-20, 28-29, 45-48 and 56-57 are each dependent (directly or indirectly) on one of claims 16, 27, 44 and 55 and, thus, require no further amendments to place those claims in condition for allowance. However, minor amendments have been made to dependent claims 45-48, 56 and 57, to correct an obvious typographical error.

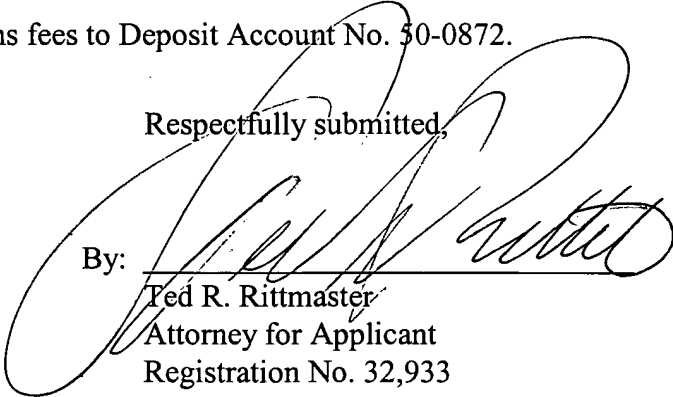
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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